



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

48 Devonshire Road ☐ Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 ☐ (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 664-0689

August 8, 2013

To Interested Parties:

This letter is to inform you of a scheduled commercial salmon gillnet fishery in Willapa Bay. The fishery will begin 6:00 a.m. August 12, 2013 and continue through 6:00 p.m. August 15, 2013 for Areas 2N, 2R, 2T, and 2U. Area 2M will be open from 6:00 a.m. August 12, 2013 through 6:00 p.m. August 13, 2013. Retention of all species other than coho, hatchery Chinook and legal-sized white sturgeon is prohibited. The mesh size allowed is 9-inch maximum mesh. Area, gear, and other requirements are provided in the summary below.

In August, September, and October the release of ALL wild (unmarked) Chinook, chum, non-legal white sturgeon, and ALL steelhead is **required**. Soak time is limited to 45 minutes and live boxes are **required** to be used when the release of wild (unmarked) Chinook is required. The mesh size allowed from September 15 through September 22, 2013 is 6-inch maximum mesh. The mesh size allowed from September 23 through October 31, 2013 is 6 ½ inch maximum mesh. Area 2U will be **closed** for three 12-hour periods 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on September 22, September 29 and October 6, 2013.

November fishers may use either 6 ½ -inch maximum OR 9-inch minimum mesh. Only ONE net either 6 ½ -inch or 9-inch configuration may be used when in the act of fishing. In November, the release of chum is required.

Fishers in Willapa Bay must carry an on-board observer, if requested by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). It is also **REQUIRED** that all operators of commercial salmon vessels planning to fish in Willapa Bay must complete a "Fish Friendly" workshop and have in their possession a WDFW-issued certification card to participate in salmon openings. Operators who do not currently hold a "Fish Friendly" certification card need to contact Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-1213 at the Region 6 Montesano office to sign up and make arrangements to attend a class.

Fishers are REQUIRED to report encounters of green sturgeon. The date and number of green sturgeon encountered can be reported to the buyer or directly to WDFW through the Quick Report system. Wholesale dealer should use the "buyer only" portion of the fish ticket (list the number of green sturgeon encountered and in the pounds/price columns, label as 'encountered'). Encounters must be reported with each day's Quick Reporting. Direct reporting by fishers shall include name of the fisher and vessel #, date, catch area, and number of green sturgeon encountered.

Wholesale dealers and fishers retailing their fish should note that "Quick Reporting" of catches is **required** for all salmon and sturgeon landed; this includes all "take home". All purchases are required to be reported to WDFW by 10:00 A.M. of the day following the commercial landing. **The quick reporting requirement does not preclude the obligation of buyers to report catches on fish tickets.** A copy of the "Statewide Quick Reporting Summary Sheet" can be downloaded on our

website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/>.

These regulations are subject to change based on in-season information. You are advised to call the Department of Fish and Wildlife hotline at (360) 902-2500 or (360) 249-4628 before going fishing to verify fishery schedules and regulations. To view a copy of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for this fishery you can go to our website at:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/salmon/netting_schedules.html. For additional information or questions, please contact Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-1213 at the Region 6 Montesano office.

Encounters of sturgeon with tags of any sort should also be reported. If tags from legally retained white sturgeon can be removed before sale, please mail them to the address at the top of the page.

DO NOT REMOVE tags from sturgeon not legal to retain, if any information from can be retrieved please do so and submit that information to the quick report system.

Atlantic Salmon

Wholesale dealers and fishers are asked to contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should Atlantic salmon be taken during any fishery in Washington waters. Please notify the appropriate WDFW staff member of when and where the fish was encountered or contact Fish Program in Olympia at (360) 902-2700.